

REMARKS

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 13 - 27 are allowed and that claims 3 - 6 and 12 recite allowable subject matter. New claims 33, 34, and 35 are independent claims similar to the prior versions of allowable claims 3, 5, and 12.

Amendments

Claim 1 is amended to delete superfluous language and to recite that the transport assembly comprises at least one rail, at least two supports, and at least one wheel or roller assembly. As a result, claim 2 is cancelled, and claims 3 and 5 are amended to be consistent with the language of amended claim 1. Also, claims 8 and 9 are amended to depend from claim 1, rather than claim 2.

Claims 7, 10 and 11 are cancelled and replaced by new process claims 38-40. New claims 28-32, 36, 37, and 40-41 are directed to further aspects of applicants' invention and are supported throughout the disclosure. See, e.g., the Figures and the discussion thereof in the specification.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C §103 in view of Hitchcock (US '240)

Claims 1, 2 and 7 - 11 stand rejected as allegedly being unpatentable in view of U.S. Patent No. 1,564,240 (Hitchcock). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Hitchcock discloses a glass melting tank having a slot through which molten glass is discharged. In front of the slot is a sheet forming apparatus having a rectangular receptacle containing a bath of molten metal such as tin. The upper surface of the molten metal is said to act as casting bed over which the glass passes on its way to sizing and dimensioning rollers. See, e.g., page 1, line 108 - page 2, line 15. As shown in Figures 1 and 2 and discussed at page 2, lines 91-95, the sheet forming apparatus can be moved transversely away from the glass

melting tank by means of a car 31 on a track 32.

Hitchcock does not disclose or suggest a transport assembly comprising at least one rail, at least two supports, and at least one wheel or roller assembly, wherein the at least one rail is attached at each end to a support, and that least one wheel or roller assembly is attached to the at least one rail. Moreover, Hitchcock fails to teach or suggest that the sheet forming apparatus is adapted to move among a plurality of units receiving molten glass. Compare applicants' claims 36-37.

In view of the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted U.S. Patent No. 1,564,240 (Hitchcock) fails to render obvious applicants claims 1, 2 and 8-9. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C §103 in view of Baron (US '966)

Claims 1 - 2 and 7 - 10 stand rejected as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,171,966 (Baron). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Particularly, Baron discloses a heat-offtake body as a metal bath. See, e.g., column 10, lines 31 - 41 and Fig. 9. Particularly, this heat-offtake apparatus is designed to directly transfer heat from the glass as rapidly as possible without the disadvantages of a turbulent gas flow from occurring. See, e.g., column 3. As such, the heat-offtake apparatus is more like that of a roller table rather than a float bath.

In any event, in Figure 9, Baron illustrates a molten metal bath 43 in a vat or furnace 44. The vat can be arranged on a frame 48 that is moveable over rollers 49 on rails 36. See column 10, lines 29-44.


Baron does not disclose or suggest a transport assembly comprising at least one rail, at least two supports, and at least one wheel or roller assembly, wherein the at least one rail is attached at each end to a support, and that least one wheel or roller assembly is attached to the at least one rail. Moreover, Baron fails to teach or suggest that the sheet forming apparatus is

adapted to move among a plurality of units receiving molten glass. Compare applicants' claims 36-37.

In view of the above remarks, favorable reconsideration is courteously requested. If there are any remaining issues which can be expedited by a telephone conference, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone counsel at the number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,



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Filed: October 27, 2005